

TSG provides a glimpse at future warfighting

by Mike Snead, AFRL Headquarters

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, OHIO — The Air Force Research Laboratory recently announced that it is sponsoring a futures wargaming activity called the Technology Seminar Game to identify innovative and revolutionary technologies, and associated new or improved warfighting capabilities.

Undertaken in partnership with the Air Force Directorate of Strategic Planning, the TSG is aimed at identifying new warfighting concepts to use in Air Force futures wargames and to support laboratory investment planning.

“The idea behind the TSG is to use futures wargaming as an additional tool to explore how advanced science and technology can help the Air Force address emerging warfighting needs and threats,” said Dr. Henk Ruck, SES, Deputy Director for Investment Strategy, AFRL/XP. “Futures wargaming is a stimulating environment for scientists and engineers. It gives them a fresh look at how their technology could directly impact the ability of the Air Force to effectively and affordably conduct its missions in the future.”

The TSG will be conducted in two parts. Starting in May, a series of Wild Blue Yonder workshops will provide the opportunity for scientists and engineers along with operators to brainstorm and evaluate technology-based solutions. The time period of interest for these workshops is 2015-2025. Building upon these workshops, a five-day technology-focused wargame will be held in October to use the construct of a wargame to further assess the potential warfighting utility of the new concepts.

“Wargaming provides a very productive environment for assessing new ideas. In fact, a central purpose of futures wargames is to explore completely new technology applications or operational concepts that go beyond today’s paradigms,” Ruck said. “The intellectual competition between blue and red teams is the key to successful wargaming. This competition brings out fresh insights into what could be. From the lab’s perspective, these insights will help us better understand how our science and technology investment could benefit the warfighter over the next 15 to 25 years.”

The TSG concept development activities will be undertaken by a core innovation team of technologists and operators. Their role is to both lead the development of new warfighting concepts and to serve as a conduit for receiving and evaluating inputs from throughout the Air Force.

“We recognize that we have tremendous human capital whose technical knowledge and problem solving abilities can help use explore and identify revolutionary warfighting capabilities,” Ruck said.

“The TSG is designed to allow technologists and operators the freedom to provide input in any area where they see the possibility of advancement. We want to foster breakthrough thinking to find potential solutions to what currently appear to be insurmountable problems.”

For more information about the program, please visit <https://aftech.afrl.af.mil/wargaming>. Questions about the program can be directed to wargaming@afrl.af.mil. @